Dealing with the public service, the Member submitted that the Heads of the several Departments were slow in carrying out the orders of Government in the matter of preferring Mahomedan applicants and pointed out that Mahomedan employees in the lower ranks of the service were unable to get their legitimate promotion.

With a view to encourage education among Mahomedans, the Member suggested that the half-fee concession granted to their pupils in the Government schools might be extended to the grant-in-aid schools as well, and that Government might also grant recognition and grant to the several Arabic Schools and make arrangements for the introduction of the study of Malayalam in these schools. He also pleaded for the introduction, as an experimental measure, of compulsory education among Mahomedans in some taluks where the community was educationally backward.

150. Dispensing with the use of Koran in courts and granting holidays for Mahomedan festivals.

Mr. C. Mahomed Kunju (Member, Nominated) regretted that the Koran which the Mahomedans considered holy was being handled by all classes of people in law courts without undergoing the prescribed course of purification of mind and body and prayed that it might be ordered to be removed from all courts of law as in British India, the persons who had to swear by the Koran being instructed to bring the book with them. The best thing would be to stop swearing by the Koran, as it was not permitted under the Mahomedan religion.

The Member then requested that the Moharum, Barawafat, Ramzan and Bakrid which were Mahomedan holidays be declared public days throughout the State.

Dewan's reply.—The High Court say that there is no rule which makes it compulsory for a Mahomedan to swear on the Koran. Statements may be made in two ways, either by oath on the Koran or by a solemn affirmation. Your prayer is that the Koran should not be kept at all in Courts. I shall consult the High Court in the matter.

In regard to holidays, the question was brought up at several sessions of the Assembly and disposed of. Nevertheless, the matter will be re-examined in so far as two of the most important of the holidays are concerned.

Most of the points raised in the representations of Messrs. Picha Bava Sahib and Navurkani Rowther are not new. Statistics show that in 1096 a sufficient number of appointments were given to Mahomedans. If any qualified Mahomedan did not get an appointment, he could bring it to the notice of Heads of Departments or the Government, and then the matter could be considered.

In regard to promotions, they depend upon the nature of the work of the employees, the length of their service, etc.

The question of grants to Arabic schools is a new matter. You say that there are 1,000 Arabic schools and that 30,000 boys are attending them. The question requires examination.

As regards the representation of Mahomedans in the Assembly and in the Legislative Council, I may say that the principle of communal representation has not been accepted by this Government. In the absence of very good reasons the question cannot be re-opened.

Your other suggestions such as a larger representation of Mahomedans in the Economic Development Board, etc., will be considered.

151. Needs of the Muslim community in Changanachery.

Mr. M. A. Navurkani Rowther (Member, Nominated) submitted that about 4,000 Mahomedans were living in the town of Changanachery but that they were not sufficiently represented on the Municipal Council. Of the 18 members in

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the Municipal Council, only one was a Mahomedan and that member was nominated by the Government. He prayed that the strength of the Council be raised to 20 or 21 and the number thus raised be made up of Mahomedan members.

The Member next urged the necessity for repairing the tank at Changanachery constructed at great cost by Government in 1070 or so for the use of the Mahomedan community. Although there was a rumour that an estimate was called for by Government with a view to repair the tank, no further steps seemed to have been taken. The Municipal Council was not in a position to undertake the work owing to paucity of funds.

Since education among Mahomedan girls in Changanachery was very backward, the Member requested that either a grant be made to Arabic Patasalas and the teaching of Malayalam also introduced there or that special schools be opened for the benefit of Mahomedan girls.

The Member finally urged the necessity for a qualified lady medical officer at the local hospital, as Mahomedan women were not benefited by the present hospital staff, especially during periods of confinement.

Dewan's reply.—Your suggestion to increase the number of Municipal Councillors in the Changanachery Municipality from 18 to 21 and to nominate 3 more Mahomedans will be referred to the Council, and the matter will be decided on receipt of the opinion of the Council.

In regard to the bathing tank mentioned by you, it is a tank within the limits of the Municipality. The Council should take up the question and make definite proposals as to how the cost of the work could be met. If the Council is not in possession of sufficient funds, it should apply to the Government for a loan and then the question could be considered. In my next tour to Changanachery you may show me the tank in question.

In regard to the opening of a Government school for Mahomedan girls, your community has stated that it is not possible to give the site and building required for the school.

Member.—We agree to give the site, but we cannot put up the building. Changanachery is a place which contains a large Mahomedan population and I request Government to grant us the required facilities for the education of our girls.

Dewan.—I shall examine the matter in the light of your present representation.

As regards the appointment of a lady medical officer in the hospital, I shall consult the Darbar Physician and then decide.

152. Recruitment to the public service: certain suggestions.

Mr. P. J. John B. A. & B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Quilon) represented that it was desirable to classify public service into 3 grades, viz; (1) higher, consisting of appointments carrying Rs. 150 and above, (2) middle, consisting of appointments carrying Rs. 50 and above up to Rs. 150, and (3) lower, consisting of appointments below Rs. 50. The higher grade should be filled up by men of real merit. As regards recruitment in general, it should be regulated by some examination or special test and such examination should be open only to the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. A representative board might be constituted to fill up vacancies in the middle grade, efficiency bar might be introduced in certain departments of the service to regulate promotions, and family status and character might also be considered when appointments were filled up. Pensioned officers might be requested to be members of this board.

The Member also prayed that the claims of the mofussil bar might be recognised in regard to appointments in the Judicial Department and that the Land Revenue Department might be thrown open to all classes.

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